



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 3, 2004

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer  
610 N.W. Loop 410  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
(210) 384-7440

**EAGLE PASS, TEXAS DOCTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD CHARGE**

**U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that Dr. Paul Harris (a.k.a. Harish Prafulchandra Patel), former owner of Women and Family Care Clinics in Eagle Pass, Texas, faces up to five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to defrauding Medicaid of approximately \$304,798.

Appearing before United States District Judge Alia Ludlum this afternoon, Harris pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit Medicaid fraud. By his plea, Harris admitted that from September 19, 1997 to July 25, 2000, he implemented a scheme to fraudulently bill Medicaid for reimbursement expenses. The doctor's scheme included: 1) falsifying medical records in order to support medical reimbursement claims; 2) causing employees to purchase prescription drugs, including "Depo-Provera," a contraceptive drug, from discount pharmacies in Mexico, smuggle them into the United States, then administer them to his Medicaid patients while billing Medicaid for the drugs at full price; 3) performing incomplete examinations of patients while billing Medicaid for complete examinations and; 4) mis-classifying a large percentage of patients as high risk in order to perform and bill Medicaid for numerous sonograms. As part of his plea agreement with the Government, Harris has already tendered cashiers' checks totaling \$304,798 as full restitution to the Texas Medicaid Program.

The defendant remains on bond pending sentencing which is scheduled for November 8, 2004.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Criminal Investigation and Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit. Assistant United States Attorney John Peralta is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

#####